

Senate Resolution 715

By: Senators Seay of the 34th, Johnson of the 1st, Brown of the 26th, Butler of the 55th, Tate of the 38th and others

A RESOLUTION

1 Urging the General Assembly to commemorate the life and work of Georgia's own Dr.
2 Martin Luther King, Jr. by contributing funds for the Washington, D.C. Martin Luther King,
3 Jr. National Memorial; and for other purposes.

4 WHEREAS, the late Dr. Martin Luther King, Jr., was a distinguished Georgian whose effort
5 to obtain a peaceful and just society earned a Nobel Prize; and

6 WHEREAS, to commemorate the life and work of Dr. Martin Luther King, Jr., the
7 Washington, D.C. Martin Luther King, Jr. National Memorial Project Foundation has been
8 created to lead a collaborative funding, design, and construction process in the creation of
9 a memorial to honor his national and international contributions to world peace through
10 nonviolent social change; and

11 WHEREAS, more than a monument to a great humanitarian, the National Memorial
12 honoring Georgia's son, Dr. Martin Luther King, Jr., will be a place for visitors from all over
13 the world to be energized by its extraordinary power; the power that illuminated the faith of
14 our founders and now impels us toward our destiny as a nation; the power flowing from the
15 uniquely American spirit of brotherly love, freedom, justice, and the priceless blessing of
16 peace they engender; and

17 WHEREAS, the Ceremonial Groundbreaking for the memorial occurred on November 13,
18 2006 with the start of construction contingent upon raising the estimated total construction
19 cost of \$100 million, of which approximately \$82 million has been raised; and

20 WHEREAS, the United States Congress passed House of Representatives Bill 2361
21 authorizing the United States Treasury to match \$10 million in private contributions for the
22 construction of the Martin Luther King, Jr. National Memorial in Washington, D.C. and said
23 Congressional Match was achieved February 28, 2006; and

1 WHEREAS, Maryland with its donation of half a million dollars, not Dr. King's home state
2 of Georgia, was the first state to contribute funds to the memorial with governmental entities
3 such as the District of Columbia; Denver, Colorado; Santa Cruz, California; and Berkeley,
4 California also making contributions; and

5 WHEREAS, it is only fitting and proper that Georgia through its contributions ensures that
6 the life and memory of the late Dr. Martin Luther King, Jr. are so honored with a national
7 memorial as such tributes are invaluable forums for remembering what Dr. King's
8 courageous legacy has meant and continues to mean for Georgia, the country, and the world.

9 NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED BY THE SENATE that the members of this body
10 urge the General Assembly to contribute state funds for the building of the Washington,
11 D.C. Martin Luther King, Jr. National Memorial and express their support of such efforts.